

Irish vol 7
12

LETTER

T O

Charles Lucas, M.D.

Relative to the

ANNUAL STIPEND

O F

Three hundred and Sixty-five Pounds, proposed to
be paid him, during the CITY's Pleasure.

By a FREE-MAN.

*Pensions, which Reason to the Worthy gave,
Add fresh Dishonour to the Fool and Knave.*

POPE.

D U B L I N:

Printed for, and sold by the NEWS-HAWKERS.

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BETTER

THE

REPORTS



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L E T T E R
T O
CHARLES LUCAS, M. D.

S I R,

A M A N who has so strenuously contended for the Liberty of the Press as you have done, and who has made so free a Use of it on every Occasion, making it groan with your numerous Productions, can surely find no Fault with a Free-Man, for availing himself of the same useful Instrument.

If you think it your Duty, and that you have a Right, as you insist you have, in your Address to the Lord Mayor, concerning the Corn Bill; of addressing yourself to your Constituents, on any public Emergency; I think it my Duty, and insist on my Right, of addressing myself to my Representative in Parliament, on any Emergency, or Subject, wherein the Public is interested. Do not then complain, S I R, I beseech you, that I violate the Rules of Decency, or shew you any Disrespect as a Member of Parliament, in publishing my Thoughts of some late Proceedings, in a Letter addressed to you.

How far your Merit or your Services have deserved from the City of *Dublin*, an annual Stipend,
A 2 or

or *Pension*, of three hundred and sixty-five Pounds a Year, I shall not enquire here — That may be, in all Probability, the Subject of some future Letter -- But I shall take Leave, to say somewhat of the Behaviour of some particular Gentlemen, who call themselves *certain of the Commons*; and consider, whether in their *HUMBLE* Petition, as they call it, “To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Commons, and Citizens of the City of Dublin;” they have acted as wise Men and good Patriots, or as the reverse.

PREVIOUS to the presenting of their Petition, it is well known, you opposed the Corn Bill to the utmost of your Power, though to no Manner of Purpose, as yourself tell us; for it was almost the general Sense of the House, that the Bill, (notwithstanding the Clamours raised against it *without*, by People utterly ignorant of its Propriety or Impropriety,) was for the real Service of *Ireland*; and, therefore, they passed it. -- I pretend not to say, that your Conduct on this Occasion, was not influenced by your best Judgment. Perhaps, it was; and that you really thought the Bill would be fatal to the Interests of your Country. If so, you acted right in opposing it: But I must beg Leave to say, I think it was neither very prudent nor *modest*, immediately after, to address yourself to the Public, to tell them — what? — Why, that you differed in Opinion, from the Majority of the Gentlemen of the House of Commons.

HAD you contented yourself with acting *in* the House agreeable to your Reason and Conscience, without submitting your Conduct to the Judgment of those *without*, in, what I think, an inflammatory Address, I should not have put you to the Trouble of reading this Letter, nor hurt your Delicacy, by awakening your Pride.

I NEVER was a Member, and consequently know nothow essential or valuable popular Opinion may be, to one in that Station. You are, I confess, popular enough;

enough ; and it is well known what made you so. Strong Lungs and an unblushing Front, a Facility of Utterance and ceaseless Declarations about the CONSTITUTION — LIBERTY — and MAGNA-CHARTA; will ever create a Man the Title of Patriot, and waft him on the Wings of Popularity. But we have had before now, Pseudo Senators, who would bawl and clamour for their Country's Freedom, 'though they were thereby paving the Way for the Loss of their own : And ranting, venal Orators, who would incessantly roar for Liberty and Property,

“ And mouth at Cæsar 'till they shook the Senate ; ”

'Though a Place or a Pension given them, would immediately make those Pseudo Senators, and venal Orators, tame as Lambs; and mute as Fishes.

It was certainly no Reproach to your *Conscience*, however it might be to your *Understanding*, for you to differ in Opinion from a Majority in a House of Commons. You thought, I suppose, the Corn Bill a destructive One. You spoke your Sentiments to that Purpose ; you opposed it “ through every Stage of its Progress in the House,” — Why then should you not have sat down contented with your Conduct, and rested satisfied with a Consciousness of having discharged your Duty ? Other Members had as much Cause in being angry with you for not thinking as they did, as you had to be angry with them, for not being of your Opinion. You might then have submitted in Silence to superior Wisdom and Numbers, and the Public would not have blamed you. But no, no ; that would not have done. That would not have answered your Turn. That would have been to little Purpose. What signifies the Approbation of *Conscience* alone ? “ The Popular Opinion must also square with mine. I must open the *Eyes of the Public*. I must display *mine* Abilities as a Writer, as well as an Orator. I must ride buoyant on the Wing of Fames, and every greasy Butcher, and Penny Shaver's Mouth must echo with my Praise, while a thousand roaring Orators, vulgarly

“early called News-Hawkers, shall stalk through every Part of this populous City, pronouncing my Name with the Lungs of so many STENTORS, and rending the very Air with Acclamations.”

ARE these Things so?—Confess, confess now, whether the Plaudits of a Man’s own Conscience, independent of *Ambition* or *Interest*, ought not to satisfy him. What could you propose, by addressing yourself to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, &c. to tell them, that the House of Commons acted extremely imprudent and wrong, in passing the Corn Bill, and that *You* only acted the Man of Sense, and the true Patriot in opposing it?

WELL--- In Consequence of your informing the Public, of your able and prudent Conduct, in opposing the *fatal* Corn Bill, the popular Prejudice immediately arose against those Gentlemen who saw Things with their own Eyes, and who were hardy enough to dissent from you in Opinion. To be sure, they acted extremely culpable in so doing; and you did right in telling the Public of it. You have set a noble *Example* to other M--mb--s, who may be singularly just in their Sentiments, and patriotic in their Conduct, how *they* must behave on similar Occasions. If a Majority do not coincide with the Opinion of a single Member, he must no longer endeavour to do his Duty, in speaking and acting agreeable to his Judgment and Conscience in the House; but must *turn Author*, and communicate his Sentiments to the People at large, that every one may pass his and her Opinion upon the Propriety of Parliamentary Measures and national Affairs; and that every Cocker, Butcher, Tinker, and Coal-Heaver may be enabled to dispute on *Ways and Means*, *Poyning’s Law*, *Liberty and Property*, *Patriotism and Public Spirit*, and such like Topics; as the popular and patriotic C----- L-----s, M. D. used to do in the celebrated atheistical and deistical Society of the ROBIN-HOOD, in the *Butcher-Row*, London, when he was banished his Country, and called himself, *The last Free Citizen*

Citizen of Dublin while Dublin was; now an Exile for the Cause of Truth, and the Liberty of his Country.

I SHALL now speak a Word or two concerning the Conduct of those *certain of the Commons*, who, when the City was loaded with Debts, and groaned under accumulated Distresses, wanted to burthen it with a further Charge of 365 *l.* per Annum.

THIS plain, self-evident Proposition I must particularly insist on. If CHARLES LUCAS acted right, in opposing the Corn Bill through every Stage of its Progress in the House, as he says he did, every Member, who contributed to its Passing, acted wrong.

AGAIN, If the Citizens of *Dublin* should be induced by fallacious Arts and insidious Devices, to grant an Annual Pension of 365 *l.* to the Opposer of that Bill, hey thereby, in my Opinion, pass a Censure on, and load with a perpetual Stigma, those Gentlemen of the House of Commons, who differed from CHARLES LUCAS in Opinion. How then they can reconcile to themselves, or even think of, such a daring Affront, such an imprudent Action, I know not.

BESIDES, if a Stipend or PENSION, be granted *at this Time* to the *intended Pensioner*, however worthy he may be of one, will not the Public in general have Reason to conclude, that the Reason of its being granted him is, because he has had the Boldness to act in Opposition to the whole House of Commons---to appeal to the Public in Support of his Opinion, thereby arraigning that of the House --- and blowing aloud the Trumpet of Sedition, exciting the People to Tumults, and filling their Minds with causeless Fears, and ill grounded Jealousies? ---Tome it appears in this Light; and, therefore, I must say, that the Conduct of *certain of the Commons* is very exceptionable; and if the Pension be really granted, it will be a high Encouragement for other *writing Orators*, on every trifling Occasion, to address themselves to the Populace, thereby

inflaming their Minds, and fomenting Jealousies against the most respectable Body in the Kingdom.

FROM what we have seen of the present vigilant, and worthy Lord Mayor, we are well assured, he wanted no Advice from any one, how to demean himself on this, or any other Occasion; and, therefore, C. L. might have spared himself the Trouble of acting the Monitor in his elaborate Address to him: And since there is no Foundation in Reason for a Distrust of His MAJESTY's Wisdom or Conduct, I can see no Cause for us to be alarmed at the ungenerous Insinuations of any unhappy Villonaries, or wanton Incendiaries.

I SHALL now, Sir, take my Leave of you, and recommend to your most serious Consideration, this useful Maxim.—*To weigh well the Consequences of publishing, before you sit down to write;* for it is neither prudent nor honest, for a Man, in the first Transports of Anger, at being opposed in his Singularities and Follies, to brandish his Grey-Goose Weapon, and, *Drawcanfir-like*, attack all who do not think as he does.

I am, SIR,

With a real Veneration for your Abilities, and a true Compassion for your Foibles.

Your very humble Servant,

A FREE-MAN.

